

Holiday vigilance

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A message from the friendly NORAD folks.

Notice Number: NOTC2732

During this holiday season, the federal agencies tasked with protecting our nation's skies are asking for your help. Though there is no specific threat, events since 9/11 remind us that those who wish to do harm to America are persistent in their attempts to use aircraft as a desired method of attack. We ask you--as fellow air professionals--to partner with us and practice increased vigilance in and around our airports and aircraft throughout this holiday season. Please ensure your aircraft is secure. Additionally, pay close attention to your surroundings and report any suspicious aviation related activities to local authorities right away.

Thanks again, Fly Scfe and Happy Holidays from America's Continental NORAD Region Air Cperations Center, Tyndall AFB, FL

On many occasions through the years following 9/11, we have seen many briefings of similar nature from various agencies. We should always keep our eyes open for abnormal activities. And who could do a better job than our CAP people? We are frequently hanging out at airports and we know usually what things should normally look like. Stay vigilant, remember our motto?

Are you doing your part to prevent Airport Surface Deviations?

Runway incursions are the leading safety threat to aircraft on the ground and those approaching to land. Do your part to minimize this risk by pre-programing the radio and navigation equipment before you taxi. If you are given an amended clearance that requires you to reprogram the equipment, wait to enter the new information until you are stopped in the run-up area or ask Ground Control if you can stop for a moment along your taxi route.

Keeping your mind focused on the task of taxiing and adhering to ATC instructions is your first and only priority at this point. Keep yourself and your passengers safe - do your part to avoid causing an incursion.

Give your aircrew briefing at the proper time (before start up) and answer any questions before taxing.

Remember the *sterile cockpit* mantra as you taxi and always copy your clearance, read back and any clarifications before you taxi. Preferably before engine start. Don't tarnish the beautiful title of PIC bestowed on you. You are the PIC!

Fly safe and enjoy aviation, you are privileged!